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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A filing system in which at least one data processing apparatus is connected to a file server via a transmission path, comprising:

a data capturing unit which captures image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

a data storing unit which stores the image data captured by the data capturing unit, onto an image storage medium;

an authorized user identifying unit which acquires a plurality of owner identifications, each of the plurality of owner identifications corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities, when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit;

an access management unit which correlates the owner identifications with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data are verified; and

a data output unit which outputs the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed by the access management unit.

Claim 2 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires one or a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein the access management unit correlates the operator identifications with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when one of the operator identifications correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 3 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, further comprising a public mode identifying unit which acquires a public-mode identification when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein the access management unit correlates the public-mode identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed by all authorized users when the public-mode identification correlated with the image data is acquired.

Claim 4 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, further comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data capturing unit is inhibited.

Claim 5 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, further comprising an initialize command detecting unit which detects an initialize command, and an initialization unit which initializes the acquired owner identifications into initial values when the initialize command is detected.

Claim 6 (Original): The filing system according to claim 5, wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of operation of the data processing apparatus, and the initialize command is transmitted to the initialize command detecting unit when the elapsed time measured by the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period.

Claim 7 (Original): The filing system according to claim 5, wherein the initialize command detecting unit further detects the initialize command when an entire data processing on the data processing apparatus is terminated, and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner identifications when the initialize command is detected.

Claim 8 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes: a list displaying unit which displays a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and an input detecting unit which determines whether any inputs are given onto the user selection buttons displayed by the list displaying unit.

Claim 9 (Original): The filing system according to claim 8, wherein the list displaying unit displays the list of the user selection buttons in a sequence of the authorized user identifications being defined in a user information file.

Claim 10 (Original): The filing system according to claim 8, wherein, each time the inputs to the user selection buttons are given, a display color of each of the input user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that is indicative of the authorized user identification selection.

Claim 11 (Original): The filing system according to claim 8, wherein the authorized user identifying unit further includes an input history recording unit which records a latest user selection count for each of the inputs to the user selection buttons, and the list displaying unit displays a set of frequent-selection user buttons based on the latest user selection counts thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The filing system according to claim 8, wherein, when any inputs to the user selection buttons are first given, the authorized user identifying unit acquires ones of a plurality of operator identifications corresponding to the input user selection buttons, and when any inputs to the user selection buttons are subsequently given, the authorized user identifying unit acquires the owner identifications corresponding to the input user selection buttons.

Claim 13 (Original): The filing system according to claim 8, wherein the data processing apparatus has a copying function, a facsimile function and a scanning function, the data capturing unit capturing the image data by using one of the copying, facsimile and scanning functions, and the list of the user selection buttons corresponding to the frequent-selection owner identifications and a list of function selection buttons corresponding to the copying, facsimile and scanning functions are displayed together on a user/function select page.

Claim 14 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit but any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein the access management unit correlates the standard user identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 15 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit using a facsimile receiving function and any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein the access management unit correlates the standard user identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 16 (Original): The filing system according to claim 15, wherein the access management unit includes a standard user identification setting unit which acquires a standard user identification, the standard user identification being predetermined on a display device of a client data processing apparatus and transmitted to the access management unit by using a Web server function.

Claim 17 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, further comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which monitors an amount of available storage of the image storage medium and displays the amount of the available storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

Claim 18 (Original): The filing system according to claim 1, wherein the data storing unit includes a first storage device of the data processing apparatus and a second storage device of the file server, and wherein the data processing apparatus includes a communication control unit which transmits the image data, stored in the first storage device, to the second storage device via the transmission path.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A data processing method for use in a data processing apparatus of a filing system, comprising the steps of:

- capturing image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;
- storing the captured image data onto an image storage medium;
- acquiring a plurality of owner identifications, each of the plurality of owner identifications corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities, when the image data is captured into the data processing apparatus;

- correlating the owner identifications with the image data stored on the image storage medium;

- allowing the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data are verified; and

- outputting the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed.

Claim 20 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, wherein, in said acquiring step, one or a plurality of operator identifications are acquired when the image data is captured, and, in said correlating step, the operator identifications are correlated with the stored image data, and, in said allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when one of the operator identifications correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 21 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a public-mode identification when the image data is captured, and wherein, in said correlating step, the public-mode identification is correlated with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and, in said allowing step, the stored

image data is allowed to be accessed by all authorized users when the public-mode identification correlated with the image data is acquired.

Claim 22 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data in said capturing step is inhibited.

Claim 23 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: detecting an initialize command; and initializing the acquired owner identifications into initial values when the initialize command is detected.

Claim 24 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: displaying a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and determining whether any inputs are given onto the displayed user selection buttons.

Claim 25 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured but any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein, in said correlating step, the standard user identification is correlated with the stored image data, and, in said allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 26 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured using a facsimile receiving function and any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein, in said correlating step, the standard user identification is correlated with the stored image data, and, in said allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified.

Claim 27 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 26, wherein the standard user identification is predetermined on a display device of a client data processing apparatus in the filing system, and transmitted to the image storage medium of the data processing apparatus by using a Web server function.

Claim 28 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: monitoring an amount of available storage of the image storage medium; and displaying the amount of the available storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

Claim 29 (Original): The data processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of transmitting the image data, stored on the image storage medium, to a storage device of the file server via the transmission path.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a processor to execute a data acquisition processing on a data processing apparatus, the computer readable medium comprising:

first program code means for causing the processor to capture image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

second program code means for causing the processor to store the captured image data onto an image storage medium of the data processing apparatus;

third program code means for causing the processor to acquire a plurality of owner identifications, each of the plurality of owner identifications corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of entities, when the image data is captured;

fourth program code means for causing the processor to correlate the owner identifications with the image data stored on the image storage medium, and for causing the processor to allow the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data is verified; and

fifth program code means for causing the processor to output the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed.